SHRI SITARAM KESRI: My question is whether the Government is in a position to manufacture without the involvement of foreign exchange or not.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: There is no question of Government manufacturing tht cars. All these are applications from private parties which are pending... (*Interruptions*). Maruti Udyog is a public sector unit and even today, the indigenisation is 67 per cent. By the end of the Seventh Plan, it will go upto about 87 per cent and only about 15-20 per cent will be import content.

Functioning of IDPL

*103. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' on the 30th March, 1988 under the heading of "COPU FOR WHITE PAPER ON IDPL";

(b) if so, the names of bulk drugs permitted to IDPL for production where utilisation capacity is less than 70 per cent along with licenced installed capacity of each and production during the last three years, yearwise;

(c) names of drugs for which IDPL obtained foreign technology along with full details of each;

(d) whether it is a fact that IDPL has increased the prices of a number of bulk drugs and formulations;

(e) if so, the names of those drugs and formulations along with earlier price, present price and the percentage change in each case;

(f) whether it is a fact that IDPL is incurring heavy losses; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Details are given in Statement-I. [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 24]

(c) Details are given in Statement-II. [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 25]

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) Details are given in Statement-III. [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 26]

(f) and (g) The losses incurred by IDPL during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Net loss
1985-86	32.21
1986-87	50.80
1987-88 (provisional)	28.01

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Madam, my supplementary arises out of the answer given by the hon. Minister. Myself and my colleagues in Parliament tried to help the hon. Minister to come out of the bureaucratic way of thinking so that the policy of the Government can be implemented properly. But all our efforts went in vain so much so that our letters are not even being replied by the hon. Minister.

Madam, formerly, matters relating to the Drug Price Control Order and IDPL were discussed in Parliament only. Now, these are being discussed

by the people, and there is a four-column news-item which has appeared in the Press today. The Committee on Public Undertakings has also suggested that a White Paper should be brought out on IDPL. Production is much less than the installed capacity and losses are being incurred by the IDPL. I would like to know from the hon. Minister (a) how much amount has been paid to the IDPL out of the realisation from the Drug Price Equalisation Fund account and how much amount in total has been realised as per the directions of the Supreme Court; (b) whether the amount paid to the IDPL is on a permanent basis or on loan basis and whether it conforms to the very purpose and provisions as indicated in the Drug Price Control Order; (c) whether it is a fact . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many questions you will put?

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: ... whatever amounts that were to be recovered from the IDPL under the Drug Price Equalisation Fund Order as per para 7(2) have been written off by the Department ignoring all norms. I would like to know, under what authority the hon. Minister has done it and is it not a fact that the hon. Minister has done it to give an opportunity to other multi-national companies to usurp crores of rupees. (*Interruptions*) My species question is under what authority he has given the amount to IDPL out of the Drug Price Equalisation Fund and whether he intends to follow the same procedure in the case of other multi-national companies?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, his question relate to the Drug Price Equalisation Fund whereas...

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: It is a question on subsidy. It is related. You have waived the recovery of amounts from the IDPL under the Drug Price Equalisation Fund.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot raise that matter here.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, this matter cannot be raised in relation to this question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is in regard to something which has appeared in the Press and about publication of a White Paper on IDPL.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are preparing the White Paper and we will be placing it before the Parliament.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Madam, the Drug Price Control Order, 1979, was approved by the Cabinet. A new Drug Price Control Order, 1986, has been prepared to bring about changes in the Order of 1979. Any deviation in this has to be approved by the Canbinet. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether approval of the Cabinet has been taken. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what measures are being taken to prevent the losses being incurred by the IDPL.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, Drug Policy, 1986, has been placed on the Table of the House after approval by the Cabinet. The IDPL incurred losses up to last year for want of working capital. This year, we have given sufficient working capital. We have given about Rs. 35 crores and Banks have also agreed to give up to Rs. 63 crores. Therefore, I think, from this year onwards, IDPL will be able to earn profits.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, at the outset, I would like to point out that the supplementaries that we are asking here are not questions on mathematics or science. Our supplementaries relate to the main question. What my friend asked was...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You put your own supplementary.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am coming to my own question. But my point is this.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: It is all related.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am afraid my question may not suffer the same fate as that hon. Member's question has suffered.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It depends on the question you are asking.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am requesting you to be diligent about what we ask and how the Minister is replying.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am very diligent, don't worry.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The statement given here shows how poor and pitiable the performance of IPDL has been. In his reply the hon. Minister has said and you must have also heard that there was no working capital. Why can't the Government provide sufficient funds for such units of the public sectors? In the absence of sufficient funds these units are not able to generate profits. So, what are the difficulties? Perhaps the argument would be that they are putting up a White Paper. That might be there, but that is not the solution. Such units in the public sector are going to have competition with multinational companies in the market. The Minister must be more enthusiastic and he should not give just a bureaucrat reply, avoiding to meet the challenge. The challenge is, are you prepared to make this IDPL unit self-sufficient enough to meet the competition of the multinational companies? That is the thrust of my question (*Interruptions*). What, wait Mr. Minister, you cannot reply like that, I have not completed as yet. I want that ample funds should be provdied and only then these units will stand in competition with the public sector companies. You have to see whether there are some more difficulties other than the working capital. I am not questioning your authority of granting fund, but I want you to see to it that the IDPL goes through successfully and for that purpose what steps you are taking I would like to know.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, I assure the hon. member through you that this undertaking will compete in the market with other private companies. They will earn profits from this year onwards. Last year its production was to the tune of Rs. 158 crores and this year our target is of the order of Rs. 210 crores. I am sure it will now come up, it will compete with the private sector companies.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What about the funds? I asked about the funds. Are you assuring that sufficient funds will be made available?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't get agitated.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It is not the question of my agitating. I want the Minister to get agitated. He is a very very silent person. I am provoking him to reply correctly. He must get agitated and not Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: There is no agitation for me. I am not provoked on his question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I want you to be provoked.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): He is a Buddha.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Now, we have provided funds for the working of the IDPL institutions. I have already said that we have released Rs. 35 crores. The Bank agreed to give up to Rs. 63 crores.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, now the provision has been made.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We will utilise the full capacity and it will come up more than the private sector.

SHRI ARUN SINGH: May I raise a point of order? Madam,, I think you are circumscribing this House more than it has been done ever before. Having had the honour to have been on the Ministers' benches, I think one of the differences between the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha questions has been, and it has also been the custom, that the supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha covered a much wider area than those in the Lok Sabha. Madam, I am on a fundamental question. As it happens, what Mr. Sahu asked, in fact, was covered specifically by the question because parts (f) and (g) of the question say: whether it is a fact that IDPL is incurring heavy losses; and if so, what are the details thereof? (*Interruptions*). If he has written off drugs price equalisation fund, that is the way of cutting the losses of the IDPL itself. It arises specifically out of (f) and (g) and it must be specifically answered.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The very same question I was asking: how much funds are you transferring from this Fund to the IDPL?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I will answer all these supplementaries.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: When?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Just now. The accumulated losses upto 31-3-88 of IDPL are Rs. 254 crores. Last year the company was provided Plan fund of Rs. 7.3 crores and non-Plan assistance of Rs. 1 crore. In addition Rs. 2.39 crore was also given to the company from the Drug Price Equalisation Fund. The Government has also arranged with the banks to enhance the company's cash credit to 27.5 crores and a budget provision of Rs. 9.53 crores is made for the current year also.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Totally unsatisfactory, Madam.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: I wanted to know whether the amount which the Minister has mentioned is covered out of the Price Equalisation Fund amount that has been given to the IDPL and whether it has been given as remission or loan.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It was given as due. They will refund to the Government, any excess amount.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Madam, I should like to know whether the hon. Minister has seen or gone through the report submitted by the Committee on Public Undertakings on the performance of IDPL. According to that report, the company is making huge losses not because there was not enough capital in the beginning, but because the company is not being run efficiently. I would like to quote from the committee's report: "What was produced by the company was not lifted by the market and what was required by the market was not produced by the company". This is the criticism coming from a Parliamentary Committee. There is something basically wrong with IDPL and I doubt if the hon. Minister has gone through that report. Let him reply to the first part of my question.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, there were some defects in the management previously and there is a report of this Committee also. We have gone through it and now it has been rectified. From last year onwards it is working very well and this year it will earn profits and there is sufficient working capital there now. I am assuring the hon. Member that this company will come up.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: I want to know about the performance of IDPL during the current year. May I know from the Minister as to what is the performance of IDPL during the first quarter of this year in terms of

profit and loss? By this quarter I mean January, February and March, 1988.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: This quarter's report is not with me. Last year the cash losses were reduced from Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 28 crores. This year it will wipe out the cash losses and it will come into profit this year.

*104. [*The questioners (Shri Kailash Pati Mishra and Shri Ashwani Kumar) were absent. For answer, vide col. 35-36 infra*].

*105. [*The questioners (Shri K. Gpoalan and Shri V. Gopalsamy) were absent. For answer, vide col. 36-37 infra*].

STD facility on National Highways

*106. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken to provide STD facilities to travellers at different points on the National Highways;

(b) if so, what is the number of places where such facility has already been provided on National Highway No. 1; and

(c) the number of places planned to be covered by STD facility in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government has not yet formulated a formal policy for providing STD facilities to travellers at different point on National Highways. However, as part of policy of improving accessibility of telecommunication facilities to the general public facilities have been provided on a trial basis at Six centres on the National Highway No.1 between Delhi and Ambala and at two places on State Highways in Haryana.

2. Four more communication centres are proposed to be opened during 1988-89.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, the idea to start and commission some tele-communication centres on the National Highways is indeed a very welcome one and would greatly serve the travelling public whenever the need arises. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether free use of this facility would be provided to those travellers who may want to use the same, not for their own personal purpose but to pass on some information about self, any accident having taken place on the highway, may be to the police station or a hospital at the nearest place.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That is a very good suggestion. If such an emergency call is booked on the highway, we will definitely consider how to see that it is not charged.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Secondly, would the facility be available round the clock?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Our idea is that we would like to make this facility available throughout the country. We are thinking that we should use the petrol pumps and also some hotels on the highways which work round the clock to have these phones so that for all the travelling people telephone facility is available round the clock.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Madam, the Minister's answer says that while they do not have any formal policy, on trial basis they have so far had eight centres and four more communication centres are proposed to be opened during 1988-89. I would like to know where these four communication centres are proposed to be opened and what is the rationale in opening these four centres in the proposed places.